

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY/WOW COUNTIES FEBRUARY 2003



State of Wisconsin

The 2002 Economic Census is Underway

The Economic Census profiles the US economy every 5 years, from the national to the local level. Forms were mailed in November and December to 5 million businesses, requesting information about business operations during calendar year 2002. Forms were due February 12, 2003, but it is not too late for a business to complete and submit the forms if they have done so already.

January data brings a new look to industry employment data

as the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) replaces the older Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) coding. This marks the first issue of the *Southeast Workforce Observations* that uses this new industry perspective. A forum like this cannot fully explain the differences between the two systems. Please keep in mind not to compare SIC and NAICS data for trends analysis or to measure industry employment performance.

The **Milwaukee County** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) is 7.0 percent in January. This rate is five-tenths of a point higher than in December and is two-tenths of point higher than the rate in January 2002. The monthly jump in rate is a return to years past where this half point jump was typical. The last two years have shown the December to January jump to be well over one percent point.

The **Waukesha County** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) is 4.8 percent in January, up seven-tenths over the month and one-tenth over the year. This is the highest January unemployment rate in quite some time, yet the monthly and annual increases exhibited are fairly typical for this time of year.

The **Ozaukee County** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) is 4.2 percent. This rate is six-tenths of a percentage point higher than in December and is one-tenth of a point lower than in January 2002. Ozaukee was the only Milwaukee metro county to have a lower unemployment rate this month than it had in the same month of last year. Nonetheless, this rate is considerably high for this month.

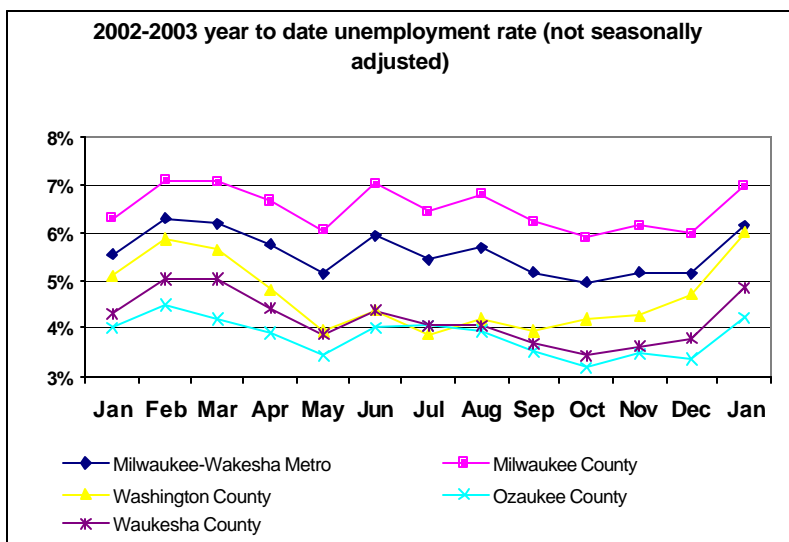
The **Washington County** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) is 6.0 percent. This is nine-tenths of a point higher than December's rate and is five-tenths of a point

higher than last January's rate. The average January rate given the 1990-2002 period is 4.0 percent. January shows one of the higher unemployment rates of the year in Washington County (and many counties in Wisconsin for that matter), though it is not uncommon for February and March to also show higher rates than January figures. Unemployment rates then will begin to subside going into the spring and summer months.

The **Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA** industry employment picture shows across the board employment decreases in all industries totaling a net loss of 21,400 jobs from the December tally. This loss seems staggering, but it is actually rather common for this month to see the MSA's total industry employment reduce in the neighborhood of 16,000 to 25,000 jobs. Government employment and trade employment are

usually the industries that experience the largest decline in employment. Trade decreases are brought about by retail businesses winding down the holiday season and the temporary help that was needed during this time. Government employment, though, is showing a much larger than usual monthly decline for this month. This may or may not be a timing subtlety of school district and University employment reporting, given the time of

the month the survey is taken and the return of students and teachers and support staff from the holiday break. If February government employment numbers rebound, which is the most likely scenario, then this will answer the survey timing question. Services employment, particularly business services employment, showed considerable losses over the month as many industries that utilize temporary help, namely manufacturing, slow down or shut down altogether during the holidays.



January 2003	Wisconsin	Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA	Milwaukee County/WDA	Washington County	Ozaukee County	Waukesha County	W-O-W WDA
Civilian Labor Force*	3,065,215	824,002	487,115	70,519	48,915	217,453	336,887
Persons Employed	2,873,467	773,214	453,144	66,287	46,842	206,941	320,070
Persons Unemployed	191,748	50,788	33,971	4,232	2,073	10,512	16,817
Unemployment Rate	6.3%	6.2%	7.0%	6.0%	4.2%	4.8%	5.0%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	2,716,731	820,276	520,607	46,370	36,895	215,558	298,823
Goods Producing Jobs	631,498	171,422	82,647	16,249	11,757	60,769	88,775
Service Producing Jobs	2,085,233	648,854	437,960	30,121	25,138	154,789	210,048
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	110,853	31,263	12,247	2,755	1,438	14,822	19,016
All Manufacturing	520,645	140,159	70,400	13,493	10,319	45,947	69,759
Total Trade	422,576	122,670	67,266	7,370	5,441	42,544	55,355
Wholesale Trade	114,463	40,392	20,393	2,045	1,413	16,541	19,999
Retail Trade	308,113	82,278	46,873	5,315	4,018	26,073	35,405
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	103,664	29,805	22,216	1,546	447	5,597	7,589
Financial Activities	153,010	58,435	40,445	1,975	2,026	13,989	17,990
Education and Health Services	356,983	126,391	92,857	5,230	4,333	23,971	33,534
Leisure & Hospitality	224,848	60,388	38,715	4,212	2,999	14,462	21,673
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	422,213	159,180	110,889	4,801	5,672	37,021	47,493
Information	50,500	19,407	13,335	466	308	5,298	6,072
Professional and Business Services	234,709	98,934	71,375	2,205	3,670	21,684	27,559
Other Services	137,004	40,839	26,179	2,586	1,851	10,224	14,660
All Government	401,939	91,985	65,571	4,987	4,221	17,206	26,414
Change from December 2002							
Civilian Labor Force*	60,490	17,410	9,890	1,740	1,010	4,780	7,520
Persons Employed	27,580	11,530	6,760	990	700	3,090	4,770
Persons Unemployed	32,910	5,880	3,130	750	310	1,690	2,750
Unemployment Rate	1.0%	0.6%	0.5%	0.9%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	-69,980	-21,400	-13,840	-1,620	-1,070	-5700	-8400
Goods Producing Jobs	-12,360	-2,680	-1,100	-240	-140	-1200	-1580
Service Producing Jobs	-57,620	-18,720	-12,740	-1,380	-940	-4500	-6820
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-11,140	-2,220	-870	-200	-100	-1050	-1350
All Manufacturing	-1,220	-460	-230	-40	-30	-150	-230
Total Trade	-15,720	-3,190	-1,800	-190	-140	-1110	-1440
Wholesale Trade	-480	-300	-150	-15	-10	-120	-150
Retail Trade	-15,240	-2,890	-1,650	-187	-141	-920	-1240
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-2,180	-570	-430	-30	-10	-110	-150
Financial Activities	-440	-530	-370	-20	-20	-130	-160
Education and Health Services	-3,940	-2,150	-1,580	-90	-70	-410	-570
Leisure & Hospitality	-6,510	-1,490	-960	-100	-70	-360	-540
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	-5,100	-4,530	-3,160	-610	-340	-1220	-2170
Information	-130	-30	-20	-1	0	-10	-10
Professional and Business Services	-5,860	-3,140	-2,270	-70	-117	-690	-880
Other Services	890	-1,360	-870	-86	-62	-340	-490
All Government	-23,740	-6,240	-4,450	-340	-290	-1170	-1790
Change from January 2002							
Civilian Labor Force*	61,260	8,820	5,210	1,010	360	2,240	3,620
Persons Employed	58,600	6,850	4,020	590	420	1,830	2,840
Persons Unemployed	2,660	1,970	1,190	420	-50	410	780
Unemployment Rate	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.5%	-0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	-2,560	-8,810	-4,890	-1,170	-730	-2,870	-4,760
Goods Producing Jobs	-11,870	-5,030	-2,650	-490	-400	-1,480	-2,370
Service Producing Jobs	9,310	-3,780	-2,240	-670	-330	-1,390	-2,390
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-960	1,160	460	100	50	550	710
All Manufacturing	-10,920	-6,190	-3,110	-600	-460	-2,030	-3,080
Total Trade	-7,740	-2,740	-1,510	-160	-110	-1,000	-1,270
Wholesale Trade	1,240	-700	-350	-35	-24	-280	-340
Retail Trade	-8,990	-2,040	-1,160	-132	-100	-650	-880
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	970	-380	-280	-20	-10	-70	-100
Financial Activities	1,610	1,350	930	50	50	320	410
Education and Health Services	6,710	2,010	1,480	80	70	380	530
Leisure & Hospitality	3,850	-60	-40	0	0	-10	-20
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	10,670	-1,720	-1,220	-500	-220	-590	-1,300
Information	-1,260	-330	-230	-8	-5	-90	-100
Professional and Business Services	5,950	-1,200	-870	-27	-45	-260	-330
Other Services	5,980	-190	-120	-12	-9	-50	-70
All Government	-6,760	-2,240	-1,600	-120	-100	-420	-640

* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. **Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates.

"XX" indicates that data is suppressed and has been aggregated with other industries. **Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total**

*Questions and comments regarding this publication are welcome. Direct to: **Eric Grosso, State Labor Economist**
DWD-Labor Market Information P.O. Box 7944 Madison, WI 53707
608-266-7034 608-266-5887(FAX) E-mail: Eric.Grosso@dwd.state.wi.us
Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI*